

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NASA/I BGGARNER:SS

APPROVED BY OES/SCI VOGT

NASA/G/KUPPERMAN(DRAFT)

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NASA/I/DOYLE

EUR/IB:MDURKEE

L/OES-SBURTON(INFO)

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R 042242Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS STATE 025635

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: TSPA:

SUBJ: CLOSURE OF NASA CANARY ISLAND TRACKING STATION

REF: MARDIR A-21, JANUARY 26, 1974

PARIS PASS NASA REPRESENTATIVE

1. AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS CAREFUL RE-ASSESSMENT, NASA HAS CONCLUDED THAT BOTH NEAR TERM AND LONG TERM DATA ACQUISITION REQUIREMENTS DO NOT REPEAT NOT JUSTIFY CONTINUATION OF CANARY ISLAND TRACKING STATION.

2. STATION WAS ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT MANNED SPACE FLIGHT PROGRAM, AND HAS PLAYED VITAL ROLE IN REMARKABLE SUCCESS OF THAT PROGRAM THROUGH RECENT SKYLAB MISSION.

3. CHANGES IN PROGRAMMATIC REQUIREMENTS DURING THIS PAST YEAR FOR APOLLO-SOYUS MISSION AND VARIOUS UNMANNED AND LOW

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EARTHORBIT MISSIONS IN FUTURE NO LONGER REQUIRE COVERAGE FROM

CANARY ISLANDS.

4. POSSIBILITY OF CANARY ISLAND CLOSURE WAS DISCUSSED WITH SPANISH DURING VISIT OF GENERAL AZCARRAGA TO NASA LAST NOVEMBER. NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO CLOSE WAS SENT RECENTLY BY NASA TO COL. OLIVER OSUNA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE TECNICA AEROSPACIAL (INTA). LETTER CONTAINS ADDITIONAL SPECIFICS RE NASA RATIONAL FOR CLOSURE AND COPY WILL BE POUCHED TO EMBASSY FOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

5. IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXCHANGE OF NOTES OF JANUARY 15, 1974 (REPAIR) EXTENDING AND MODIFYING AGREEMENT OF APRIL 14, 1966 QUOTE AGREEMENT EXTENDED...SUBJECT TO..TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT BY EITHER GOVERNMENT GIVING THE OTHER GOVERNMENT SIX MONTHS WRITTEN NOTICE OF TERMINATION. END QUOTE

6. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO INFORM MFA OF INTENTION TO CLOSE STATION A.S.A.P. ACTUAL CLOSE-OUT PLAN WILL BE DEVELOPED BY NASA GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER WITH INTA. NASA WILL OF COURSE WORK WITH EMBASSY ON PROBLEMS OF EQUIPMENT DECLARED SURPLUS AND DISPOSAL OF FACILITIES.

7. PLEASE EXPRESS ON NASA'S BEHALF THEIR DEEPEST APPRECIATION FOR SUPPORT AND INTEREST OF SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND OUTSTANDING COOPERATION OF INTA.

8. FYI CLOSE OUT OF CANARY ISLAND STATION IN NO WAY EFFECTS MADRID STATION WHICH REMAINS IMPORTANT PART OF NASA NETWORK. END FYI

9. NASA INTENDS TO WORK WITH THE EMBASSY AND INTA TO MAKE THE PHASE-OUT AS PAINLESS AS POSSIBLE. KISSINGER

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Disposition Authority: n/a
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